

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please add Abstract of Disclosure as follows:**

**ABSTRACT OF DICLOSURE**

A method of detecting a member of the taxa actinomycetes is provided. A method also is provided for detecting mycothiol or precursor thereof. An antibody is provided when binds to mycothiol or a mycothiol precursor. A method is further provided for diagnosis of a subject having or at risk of having an actinomycetes-associated disorder. A method is also provided for identifying a sample with altered production of mycothiol or a precursor thereof. A method is provided for detecting mycothiol or precursor thereof in a bacterial colony. Kits are also disclosed which are useful for detecting the presence of mycothiol or precursor thereof in a sample.